Experience Statement of
Harold Weisberg

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1927-31 Wilmington (Delaware) High School
1931-34 University of Delaware, Newark, Del., 3 years; didn't graduate.

Jobs:

1940-42 Free-lance writer and investigator, in Washington and elsewhere, specializing in anti-Nazi stories. For a few months early in 1940 was Washington correspondent of the magazine FRIDAY. Resigned in June 1940. In September 1940 began working for National Picture Magazine CLICK, then attempting to remake itself from a cheesecake journal into a light but serious publication. Shortly thereafter became CLICK's Washington representative (quit February 1942 because changes in the control of this publication convinced me its policy of strong support of the war effort was to be dropped). Investigated and wrote series of articles under general subject "Attempted Nazi Invasion of American Business." This material and work showed how the Nazis used patent rights and cartels to further their anti-American designs. In several cases this material has been used by our government and the British government. One of the stories in this series was considered of sufficient importance by the editors of CLICK to justify the expense of reprinting it and sending it to Members of both Houses of Congress and other important government officials. Numerous responses to this mailing (about May 15, 1941), including such people as cabinet officers, a Member of the Dies committee, and J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F.B.I., hailed this story as a contribution to the defense program. A copy of this reprint is attached. In some of the cases of this type that I exposed our government has taken action, either assessing fines or forcing the removal of "unfriendly" officials. Other anti-Nazi work for CLICK included exposes of native fascist groups and an investigation of the pro-Nazi, anti-Catholic organizations. Some of the material developed on this story (February 1941) is now coming out in the Washington Grand Jury action and in such newspapers as the Washington Post.

10/39-2/40 Began work on a book on the Dies committee and its work, including a careful examination of its record, witnesses, etc., and the compilation of information on native fascist organizations and their leaders. This project has continued ever since, and while the work is nowhere near completion I have amassed voluminous files of material, much of which is not available elsewhere.

7/36-10/39 Editor, assistant secretary and investigator for the Subcommittee on Education and Labor under S. Res. 266, 74th Cong., U. S. Senate (better known as the LaFollette Committee or the Senate Civil Liberties Committee). As investigator prepared the committee's first case, against the most murderous of the nasty-anti-labor detective agencies. In September or October 1936 was given added duties of editor and custodian of committee's record and reports. In this capacity I edited the committee's printed material, totaling about 20,000,000

words and about 50 books. During this job I had up to about 25 people working under my direction. I handled all the committee's relations with the Government Printing Office, compiled the mailing list, began the preparation of an index, etc. After being with the committee for a little more than a year, I was made assistant secretary (the secretary, Robert Wohlforth, was the administrative head of the committee). I handled many of the committee's relations with various government agencies and departments, including obtaining things for the committee and making the committee's information available to the government. I was selected by the Department of Justice to represent the committee in the NY prosecution of the Harlan Conspiracy case, involving the prosecution of the Harlan County, Ky., coal operators and their hired thugs (summer 1938). This was an important labor case, so important that for months all the news services and many of the largest papers maintained crack correspondents in London, Ky., to cover the proceedings. In various ways, because of my knowledge of the facts and the country, I was able to assist the Department. My work on the committee gave me many and broad contacts with the labor movement and an insight into business and industry unfortunately denied many persons connected with industry.

Prior to this employment I was a clerk in the AAA of the Department of Agriculture. Before coming to Washington I had three years' experience reporting and corresponding for the Wilmington (Del.) Morning News, the Sunday Star (Wilmington, Del.), and various other papers for which I wrote occasionally. One of them was the old, now defunct, Philadelphia Ledger Service, a service syndicated to about 60 Sunday papers. I did by-line feature work for them. In one of these stories (I believe for the first time in America) the Japanese Mein Kampf, the Tanaka Memorial, was exposed. Now the blueprint for Japanese world conquest is comparatively well known. (I wrote a story for CLICK on it, appearing on August 15, 1941, predicting what Japan did three months later. This story was, so far as I know, the first one for about 8 years on this subject and the first showing what Japan's plans meant for the U. S.)

I will be glad to provide any other information that might be desired.

Supplementary experience statement by Harold Weisberg (append to statement filed 4-13-42)

During my investigations of Nazi-connected businesses, I got a general understanding of how the international cartels and patent deals work, especially in their effect upon America's productive ability and war effort. Several of the stories I wrote on this subject showed how, through the patent deals, Nazis or Nazi-controlled corporations were able to restrict American production of vital materials, such as plastics and drugs. Much of my work is unpublished for several reasons, chiefly the reluctance of publications to "go after" or "smear" large advertisers and, in the case of CLICK, the feeling that the freezing of funds by executive order ended the point of such stories, a feeling I did not and do not share. Another angle I pursued was to show how, through knowledge gained by patent relations, the Nazis were able to accurately estimate our production of vital materials.

The stories and investigations of the above description, both published and unpublished, are as follows:

Jan Bata, the so-called Czech shoe king (appeared in CLICK for February 1941, although I did the work in March and August of 1940)

Nirosta Corp. (previously known as Krupp-Nirosta Corp. - unpublished)

Rohm & Haas, Inc. (makers of Plexiglas - see below)

Schering Corp. and several other drug concerns (see below)

Jasco, Inc. (This story, which I discovered in May 1941 and was unable to sell after my investigation was completed, has recently become a matter of public record before the Truman committee. I turned my information over to the Department of Justice after I learned I couldn't do anything with it. This information showed the deal between I. G. Farben, the vast Nazi chemical and dye trust, and Standard Oil Co. (N. J.) with reference to gasoline and synthetic rubber patents. Congressman John Coffee of Washington used this material in an unsuccessful attempt to get a Congressional investigation of the relations between American and Nazi corporations.)

These are the more important items. I also worked on light metals - aluminum, magnesium, beryllium; drugs in general, in addition to the sex hormone angle on the Schering story; the patent lawyer set-up, which showed that firms handling a large amount of the patent-registration and assignment business were also represented in the directorates of certain Nazi-dominated or controlled "front" corporations; the technique employed by the Nazis to obtain money to their credit in this country, etc.

In addition, I conducted a short investigation of the banking arrangements whereby relations between German and American corporations were handled. In this connection I interviewed officials of the Swiss Bank Corporation and obtained from them the admission they were used as owner-fronts by Nazi corporations, that they transmitted funds to Nazi corporations, etc.

The Bata story, put into the Congressional record by Congressman Frank Hook of Michigan on or about 1-5-41 showed the nature of the deal Bata made with the Nazis, in this case, agents of Hermann Goring; the manner in which Nazis "persuade"

businessmen who might not cooperate willingly to cooperate completely; the connections of Bata employees with the Gestapo and German Army, etc., I also showed the strategic location of Bata enterprises both in the U. S. and throughout the rest of the world, including the unusual story of his operations and connivings in South America, all of which could and undoubtedly did work to the advantage of Hitler.

The Nirosta story was never published, though (confidentially) the British Ministry of Economic Warfare was interested and borrowed my documentation. This investigatio n showed another Nazi pattern, how an effort was made to enforce questionable patents through a dummy corporation and at the same time learn the extent of production of certain valuable and essential steels. In this case, an effort was made by Nirosta Corp. to exact a very high royalty on the use of the questionable and other patents, royalties which would have made the cost of these steels prohibitive and might have seriously sabotaged the defense program, with greatest effect upon shipbuilding and munitions manufacturing. This story was not published because CLICK scheduled it to appear immediately after the announcement of the freezing of Axis funds. In this case, as in all similar instances, I also traced the ownership and officials of the corporation, showing the Nazi domination. In such cases I obtained documentation. While working on the Nirosta investigation, I was told by an officer of a large and important defense plant that many industrialists were following my stories and considered them important.

The Rohm & Haas business is something that, except for my story, a copy of which was submitted with my application, was unknown and untouched until today. Today the Senate Patents Committee went into this matter and at the moment I expect to be called by them. This story showed perhaps better than any other the technique by which Nazi corporations and, of course, the Nazi government, controlled the use of important materials in this country. It showed the monetary profit to the Nazis, showed how the Nazis prevented the confiscation of the valuable patent rights by the U. S. Government and, in fact, anticipated the action our government finally took. I was informed by the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice that my investigation and testimony before the grand jury would be enough to get an indictment of the Rohm & Haas company. If a sample of the type of investigations I conducted in this field is desired, I will be glad to provide the elaborate documentation I obtained, documentation so elaborate that a director of the corporation and its secretary were amazed at it. Before I conducted this investigation and wrote the story, nothing was known about this corporation and its activities, even by its competitors in the plastics field. The most important Rohm & Haas product and patents are Plexiglas, the best synthetic glass, used on all our military planes.

The Schering investigation and story showed how the Nazis were able to restrict production on important drugs, including the vital anti-shock serums, how they were able to wage their peculiar kind of total war in South Americanthrough the American corporation, Schering, by seeming to break the British blockade, how they were able to preserve their business for themselves after this was by apparently continuing to serve their customers in spite of the war, and things of that sort. In this investigation I also exposed one of the techniques by means of which the Nazis "Americanize" their subsidiaries. Schering and similar corporations which I investigated have paid the U. S. $54,000 in fines since the publication of my work. In addition, nine important officials have been forced out by the Treasury and replaced by persons of established loyalty. The South and Central American affiliates of this corporation are now on our "blacklist." In all, following the publication of my articles, about 20 corporations I exposed have been included in this blacklist.

Congressman Adolph Sabath of Illinois placed the Rohm & Haas story and documents in the Congressional Record and made a speech drawing attention to the importance of the patent situation. I believe the Schering story was also placed in the Congressional Record, but I do not now recall by whom. Attached are a statement from the Friends of Democracy demanding action against Rohm & Haas, following my expose, and a Treasury press release showing the action against Schering, seven and a half months after my article appeared. The late Congressman Lawrence Connery of Massachusetts made a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives on August13, 1941 (Congressional Record No. 149, pages 7260-61), in which he said of the work I have done for CLICK:

> "It happens, Mr. Speaker, that I am familiar with some of the work of this magazine, and I think it is praiseworthy. I know of no publication which has been more consistently and sincerely opposed to nazi-ism or which has fought this blight upon civilization more relentlessly. Some months ago there was a documented article clearly setting forth the menace of Jan Bata, so-called Czech shoe king, a Hitlerphile, who is now on our South American blacklist. Later there were articles showing how the Nazis were extracting tribute from American industry, dealing chiefly with the Rohm & Haas Co. and the Schering Corporation. Another article which I recall exposed the vicious campaign against American Catholics waged by Hitler's minions here--now openly directed over the Berlin radio, I may add.
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> "An enlightened and informed public is, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, democracy's first line of defense. I want to commend the editors of Click for their labors, for by their investigations and these articles they have made a real contribution to our national defense."